

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117840

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINGSTON LONDON PORT OF SPAIN
TAIPEI PEKING FROM GEORGETOWN DTD 29 APR 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GY, TW, CH

SUBJECT: GUYANA REDUCES TRADE WITH TAIWAN UNDER CPR PRESSURE

1. ON APRIL 28 GOG FONMIN WILLS TOLD ME THAT THE CHINESE CHARGE
HSU CHIA-SAN HAD MADE FORMAL PROTEST LAST WEEK ABOUT PRESENCE IN
GEORGETOWN HARBOR OF M/VUNION CONCORD FLYING TAIWANESE FLAG. AT
SAME TIME CHARGE MADE FORMAL DEMARCHE ABOUT CONTINUING SUBSTANTIAL
IMPORTS OF ALLEGEDLY NON-ESSENTIAL ITEMS BY GUYANA FROM TAIWAN.

2. WILLS SAID GUYANA IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN IN 1975 WERE GUAYANESE
DOLS 3 MILLION (UGYANESE DOLS 2.55 EQUALS US DOLS 1) WHILE FIRST
QUARTER 1976 IMPORTS HAD GONE UP TO GUYANESE DOLS 2 MILLION. AS
TO TAIWANESE FLAG VESSEL, WILLS SAID HE EXPLAINED TO CHARGE THAT
GOVT TRADING CORPORATION HAD BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN VESSEL ON CHEAP
CHARTER AND THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE CHARTERS WHERE EVER THEY
COULD MAKE BEST BARGAIN. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT TRADE
ITSELF
WAS IMPROPERLY MANAGED FROM GUYANA'S SOCIALIST OBJECTIVES AND
AGREED WITH CHARGE THAT THOROUGH VOERHAUL WAS NEEDED.

3. WILLS LAID THE BLAME FOR TRADE MISMANAGEMENT AT
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DOOR OF TRADE MINISTER GEORGE KING WHO HE SAID WAS

GRANTING IMPORT LICENSES RIGHT AND LEFT FOR GOODS FROM TAIWAN. HE SAID ON THIS ACCOUNT AND BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN INEPT IN OTHER FACETS OF HIS JOB, KING WAS UNDER HEAVY CLOUD BUT THAT BURNHAM WOULD NOT DUMP HIM FROM CABINET UNTIL AFTER NEGOTIATIONS FOR NATIONALIZATION OF BOOKER-MCCONNELL HOLDINGS WERE COMPLETED. HE EXPLAINED THAT KING'S LONG ASSOCIATION WITH BOOKERS HAD GIVEN HIM INSIDE KNOWLEDGE ON WORKINGS OF BOOKER MCCONNEL ORGANIZATION WHICH BURNHAM REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL DURING NEGOTIATIONS AND TRANSITION TO GOVT OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL.

4. WILLS CONCLUDED THAT CABINET HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO EXTERNAL TRADE BUREAU (ETB) THAT ALL PENDING LICENSES FOR IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN WERE TO BE CANCELLED (WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THIS HAS BEEN DONE FROM LOCAL CHINESE MERCHANT). WILLS SAID ETB WOULD THEN INVIGILATE SUBMISSION OF APPEALS INVOLVING HARDSHIP CASES WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO MINISTERIAL REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT. INSTRUCTIONS WERE BEING GIVEN TO ETB WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR OVERALL RATIONALIZATION OF IMPORT LICENSING SO AS TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO PRODUCTS OF CARICOM ORIGIN AND WOULD SEEK TO ELIMINATE, IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, SO-CALLED NON-ESSENTIAL GOODS. LATTER MEASURE, ACCORDING TO WILLS, WAS PART OF GOVTS DRIVE TO ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE. KREBS UNQTE KISSINGER

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